



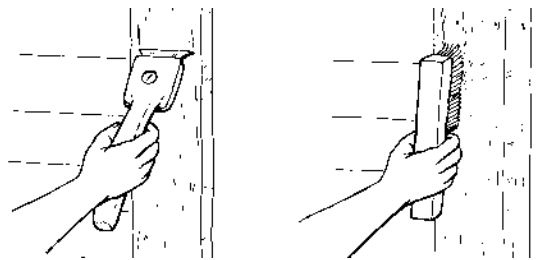
*While painting masonry is permissible with certain conditions, the practice is not recommended. Even breathable paint can trap moisture within walls, and removing paint is rarely entirely successful.*

# PAINT

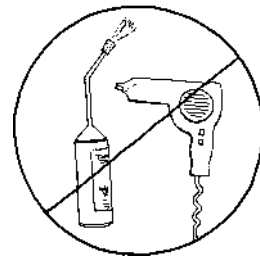
## DESIGN GUIDELINES

- P1** Painting masonry or stucco that has never been painted is not recommended. Paint is difficult to remove, accumulated layers will obscure decorative detail, and paint coatings (even “breathable” paints) will affect the wall’s vapor transmission performance. The presence of a lead oxide wash does not constitute a precedent for painting a building.
- P2** When removing paint from previously-painted masonry, use gentle treatments that have been previously tested in an inconspicuous location. Do not sandblast or use acid-based cleaners.
- P3** Use a “breathable” masonry paint that is compatible with and can create a strong bond with existing paint, only on previously-painted masonry.

### WHERE PAINT REMOVAL IS REQUIRED, A GENTLE APPROACH IS BEST



*Handscraping and sanding is recommended for wood.*



*Hot-air guns and heat plates are not recommended for wood.*

*Test a chemical stripper in an inconspicuous area before applying it to masonry.*



*(Above) The color, texture, and shape of masonry and mortar joints contribute to a building's architectural character. Painting masonry, as seen in the example above, significantly alters each of these elements, changing not only a building's facade, but how that building relates to neighboring structures.*

**P4** If painting previously-painted masonry, select a color that matches the existing color, approximates a natural masonry color as approved, or is recommended by the staff. Staff is available to consult with you on appropriate colors.



**P5** Have paint samples analyzed when possible. Paint seriation studies can determine historic pigments and appropriate colors for repainting, by analyzing a paint sample under special lighting conditions to ascertain specific color, hue, and value of paint layers.

**P6** Do not expose metal types that require protection from the elements or apply paint or other coatings to metals that were historically meant to be exposed, such as copper, bronze, or stainless steel.



**P7** Paint replacement gutters, downspouts, metal frame screen and storm doors and windows, roof-vent assemblies, and fire escapes to match wall, trim, cornice, or roof color of the house, whichever is most effective in reducing the visibility of these elements.

*(Middle and Below) In addition to its use as a decorative device, paint serves an important preservative function for some materials. If left exposed to the elements, wood and metal deteriorate rapidly as seen here.*

**P8** Be aware that historic structures often contain hazardous substances, such as lead paint and asbestos. Contact the Board of Health regarding proper methods of removal and disposal.